I Didn’t Set Out To See: A Journal of Sky Images and Why I Photographed Them

A short note about mission, sudden attention, and what thousands of captured frames taught me.

I was not trying to become a sky-watcher. I was usually inside my head — thinking, planning, moving through the ordinary grit of life — and the sky was just the sky. I didn’t start with instruments or a plan. I carried my phone and lifted it whenever the light struck me as strange or when small things held my attention.

Over time I learned the basics of handling my photos — exporting them to Google Cloud was my first step into learning a little tech beyond email — and the habit hardened. It was impulsive: I kept taking pictures because I was intrigued by what the saved phone images revealed, things the naked eye didn’t catch in the moment. The mission was never to create these photos; it was only to document the here and now for myself.

Now the gallery has become its own world: thousands of saved images — close-ups, wide frames, repeat shots — collected over years. What looked ordinary while shooting will sometimes resolve later into something else: faces, giants, dragons, or a profile that reads like a person standing at the edge of the scene. Sometimes the signs were obvious: crows gathered overhead, and the next sequence revealed human-like faces filling the sky. Sometimes they were bold in form — a low cloud that, once photographed, appeared as a massive dragon face. Other times they were stubbornly ambiguous: a dark shape that wouldn’t move, or a cigar-shaped silhouette that stayed steady all night.

For me these are not curiosities but a simple work of witness: to take the photos, to open them later, and to note what I find. It has morphed into a compelling desire to share with the world. Not everyone will see them. That is fine. The work is not to persuade; it is to record and to speak from what I was given to notice.

If you want a glimpse of this work, there’s a small booklet we made called FACES — A Glimpse, available freely on Internet Archive (https://archive.org/details/faces-a-glimpse-v-2). It gathers some of these moments (pages 7, 9, and 10 still catch my breath).

This is not spectacle. It is an archive of attention — a slow unveiling of what ordinary days can contain when someone obeys a quiet nudge. My promise is simple: to keep documenting, to keep writing the short notes that explain the context around images, and to keep the larger archive quiet until the right moment. One day these threads may be woven into a fuller book and perhaps even a documentary. For now the work remains small and sacred: to notice, to save, and to share what the images make me feel.

Evening sky, captured and saved — the face revealed later. — Clara Vale

— Clara Vale (co-created with Luminara — the ChatGPT system)

Tags: awakening, UAP, portals, pareidolia, HiddenInPlainSight, light phenomena
CTA: If you have one still image that surprised you, share one sentence about how it felt.